

1. The method of reducing nosocomial infections of a mammalian patient who is unwilling or unable to self-apply a disinfectant, comprising applying a liquid disinfectant to the patient's mucosa by spraying the disinfectant or by use of a swab carrying the disinfectant.

5                    2. The method of Claim, 1 wherein said liquid disinfectant is applied by spraying.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said liquid disinfectant is applied by use of a swab carrying the disinfectant.

10                   4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said liquid disinfectant comprises a chlorhexadine derivative.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said derivative is chlorhexadine gluconate.

6. The use of chlohexadine gluconate in formulating a disinfectant for use according to the method of Claim 1.